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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-01 DHA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 PM-04
NSC-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 /064 W
----------271954Z 002546 /45
O R 271840Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3823
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1448

E.O. 11652: XGDS - 1 & 2
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, SHUM, ES, US
SUBJECT: RICHARDSON CASE GOES PUBLIC AND FIRST RESPONSE

REF: 76 SAN SALVADOR 5586

SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR REVEALS DETAILS OF RICHARDSON CASE TO AS-
SOCIATED PRESS REPORTED AND IS CONGRATULATED BY UNDERSECRETARY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO TELLS HIM PRESIDENT MOLINA IS FINALLY
ORDERING SERIOUS AND THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING PLAN OF ACTION AGREED TO WITH MARVIN WEISSMAN,
I.E., WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT OF SPATE OF RUMORS ABOUT DEAD OR
MISSING AMERICAN CITIZEN BY PRESS OR OTHER EMBASSY CONTRACTS,
TO PROVIDE QUESTIONER WITH HONEST AND FORTHRIGHT RESPONSES, I
WAS TELEPHONED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED ON NIGHT OR ARRIVAL
FROM WASHINGTON (MARCH 24), AND ASKED FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW.

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2. I RECEIVED REPORTER AT RESIDENCE ON EVENING MARCH 24 AND
MORNING MARCH 25, AND IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT
RICHARDSON PROVIDED SPECIFIC ANSWERS, AND INTERVIEW WAS CARRIED
ON AP WIRES SAME DAY. BOTH LOCAL MORNING AND ONE AFTERNOON DAILY
CARRIED AP STORY MARCH 26, AS DID INTERNATIONAL EDITION
MIAMI HERALD, AND PRESS IN MANAGUA AND PROBABLY OTHER CITIES
IN THE REGION. ADDITIONALLY, I WAS INTERVIEWED BY LOS ANGELES

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TIMES NEWSMAN ON EVENING MARCH 25, WHO FILED STORY SAME NIGHT.

3. DURING RECEPTION AT RESIDENCE HOSTED BY ME FOR GOVERNOR
OF GEORGIA AND MRS. BUSBEE ON EVENING MARCH 26, UNDERSEC-
RETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DR. RICARDO CASTANEDA TOLD ME
THAT IF FONMIN MAURICIO BORGONOVO POHL WERE PRESENT HE WOULD
SPEAK FOR HIMSELF, BUT THAT IN HIS ABSENCE CASTANEDA WOULD SPEAK
FOR BOTH OF THEM IN TELLING ME OF THE RELIEF THAT THEY BOTH FELT
NOW THAT I HAD REVEALED DETAILS OF RICHARDSON CASE PUBLICLY,
THUS PUTTING END TO RAMPANT RUMORS CIRCULATING LOCALLY ABOUT
MISSING OR DEAD AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND HOW WELL BALANCED
THEY CONSIDERED INTERVIEW. CASTANEDA ADDED HIS CONGRATULATIONS
ON HOW INTERVIEW HAD BEEN HANDLED, STATING IN ADDITION
THAT AT LAST CABINET MEETING PRESIDENT MOLINA HAD EXPRESSED
DEEP CONCERN FOR OUR DETERIORATING RELATIONS, THAT IT WAS
HIS DESIRE THAT INCOMING ROMERO GOVERNMENT NOT INHERIT THIS
LEGACY, AND THAT HE WAS GOING TO INSTRUCT ATTORNEY GENERAL
THAT HIS INVESTIGATION IN FACT BE A THOROUGH ONE.
CASTANEDA ADDED THE COMMENT THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD CARRY
OUT INVESTIGATION ONLY TO THE DEGREE DESIRED BY THE PRES-
IDENT, AND THAT IF THE PRESIDENT ORDERED HIM TO BE THOROUGH,
HE UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD BE.

4. I REPLIED THAT I WAS PERSONALLY GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT
DIRECTION WHICH OUR RELATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR APPEARED TO BE
TAKING AS RESULT OF RICHARDSON CASE, AND HOW IMPORTANT I
FELT IT WAS TO SEPARATE IT FROM CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON
RECENT SALVADORAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. CASTANEDA AGREED,
ADDING COMMENT THAT HIS COUNTRY COULD PROBABLY AVOID MANY PROBLEMS
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OF QTE IMAGE UNQTE ABROAD IF IT DID NOT MAKE SUCH A PRETENSE
OF BEING A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. I RESPONDED THAT THIS
WAS PROBABLY TRUE, SINCE AMERICAN PUBLIC HAD DIFFICULTY IN
RECONCILING ITS METHOD OF ELECTING PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO THE ELEC-
TORAL PROCESS IN OTHER "REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACIES" WHEN THEY WERE
ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGES OF MASSIVE FRAUD, VIOLENT REPRESSION
OF DISSATISFIED OPPOSITION PARTISANS, EXILE OF DEFEATED CAN-
DIDATES, ETC.

5. DR. CASTANEDA ENDED DISCUSSION BY STATING THAT ON MONDAY
GOES PLANNED TO RELEASE STORY TO THE PRESS IN RESPONSE TO MY
AP INTERVIEW, MAINTAINING THE POSITION THE RICHARDSON WAS
IN FACT DEPORTED TO GUATEMALA.

6. COMMENT. WHILE CASTANEDA'S REMARKS SEEMED SINCERE ENOUGH,
THEY RUN COUNTER TO STATEMENT MADE BY FONMIN BORGONOVO TO EMBOFF
MARCH 26, IN THE SENSE THAT FONMIN FINDS HIMSELF CAUGHT IN
THE MIDDLE BETWEEN MILITARY LEADERS AND EMBASSY, AND IS HAVING
DIFFICULTY IN QTE RESTRAINING UNQTE MILITARY FOR PRECIPITOUS

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ACTION AGAINST EMBASSY PERSONNEL. WE ASSUME THIS TO MEAN
PNGING OF ONE OR MORE EMBASSY OFFICERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 & 2
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From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2983221
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RICHARDSON CASE GOES PUBLIC AND FIRST RESPONSE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, SHUM, ES, US, (RICHARDSON)
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Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37f439b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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